IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A threaded joint for steel pipes comprising a pin and a box each having a contact surface including a threaded portion and an unthreaded contact portion,

characterized in that the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box is coated with a metallic undercoating layer and a lubricating coating layer thereon, the undercoating layer has a porosity of 5 - 80% and a thickness of 1 - 30μm, the lubricating coating layer is comprised of a solid lubricating coating or a liquid lubricating coating, the latter containing substantially no heavy metal powders, and the total thickness of the undercoating layer and the lubricating coating layer is at most 100 μm ;

wherein the threaded joint is used at high temperatures, and wherein the undercoating layer is formed of a metal selected from Cu, Ni, Sn, Cr, Co, precious metals, and alloys thereof.

2. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as claimed in claim 1 wherein the undercoating layer has a hardness of 50 - 250 Hv.

3. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as claimed in claim 1 wherein the undercoating layer is formed by electroplating, blast coating, or flame spraying.

4. canceled.

5. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as claimed in claim 1 wherein the lubricating coating layer is a liquid lubricating coating which consists essentially of a basic metal salt of an organic acid selected from the group consisting of a basic metal sulfonate, a basic metal phenate, and a basic metal carboxylate.

6. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as claimed in claim 1 wherein the lubricating coating layer comprises a solid lubricant and a binder which can form an organic or inorganic coating.

7. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as claimed in claim 2 wherein the undercoating layer is formed by electroplating, blast coating, or flame spraying.

8. canceled.

9. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as claimed in claim 2 wherein the lubricating coating layer is a liquid lubricating coating which consists essentially of a basic metal salt of an organic acid selected from the group consisting of a basic metal sulfonate, a basic metal phenate, and a basic metal carboxylate.

10. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as claimed in claim 2 wherein the lubricating coating layer comprises a solid lubricant and a binder which can form an organic or inorganic coating.

11. (previously presented) In a method of drilling for crude oil in a high temperature environment using steels pipes having threaded joints, the improvement comprising using the threaded joint of claim 1.

12. (previously presented) A threaded joint of claim 1, wherein the lubricating coating layer and the metallic undercoating layer each define a thickness.